

# The Living Word

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

19 January 2025

## First Reading Is 62:1-5

*As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.*

About Zion I will not be silent,  
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,  
until her integrity shines out like the dawn  
and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,  
all the kings your glory,  
and you will be called by a new name,  
one which the mouth of the Lord will  
confer.

You are to be a crown of splendour in the  
hand of the Lord,  
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;  
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',  
nor your land 'Abandoned',  
but you shall be called 'My Delight'  
and your land 'The Wedded';  
for the Lord takes delight in you  
and your land will have its wedding.  
Like a young man marrying a virgin,  
so will the one who built you wed you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his  
bride,  
so will your God rejoice in you.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3**

**(R.) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all  
the nations.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the  
peoples. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Cor 12:4-11

*One and the same spirit distributes different gifts as he chooses.*

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the

gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

## Gospel Acclamation See 2 Thes 2:14

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**God has called us with the gospel  
to share in the glory of our  
Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Jn 2:1-11

*The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana in Galilee.*

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Today's gospel ends: 'He let his glory be seen.' Where? In a nondescript Galilean village at a wedding feast about to become a disaster for the couple. The wine is running out. A fiasco is impending. A hero was needed to step in and save the situation. Jesus and Mary are good candidates for hero status.

But, it is the servants who are the unsung heroes. They take a huge risk. They are going to look utterly stupid if they give the steward water to ladle out. Nevertheless, they follow the stranger's directions exactly and end up serving the best of wines, saving the couple from terrible embarrassment.

The Divine Glory is not going to enter people's lives with great pyrotechnics. Rather, when we do as Jesus requires, even if it looks ridiculous to the crowd, His healing and enhancing Presence can enter and save a situation of apparent disaster.

We could pause for a moment to pray for a certain naïve trust in the Lord as we follow his directions, so that Cana may enter someone's life, so that His glory may be seen.

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